

**NSC BRIEFING**

**3 June 1959**

**INDONESIA**

- I. Refusal of Constituent Assembly to approve Sukarno's demand for return to 1945 Constitution creates political stalemate.**
  - A. Constitution, which Sukarno had requested as part of his concept of "guided democracy," would increase executive authority at expense of political parties and parliament; army also would have gained political power and prestige.**
  - B. Immediate cause of rejection was issue trumped up by Moslem parties that 1945 Constitution does not give sufficient guarantees to Islamic religion.**
    - 1. They demanded amendment to this effect which Sukarno unwilling to grant.**
  - C. Paradoxically, Communist party was only one giving wholehearted support.**
    - 1. Commies felt impelled to support Sukarno temporarily on this issue to avoid alienating him.**
- II. Initiative now lies with army and President Sukarno.**
  - A. Sukarno, who will arrive Tokyo on 6 June on one of last stops on his round-the-world trip, will be briefed there by high government official.**
  - B. Army leaders have for some time hinted they would take action to put constitution into effect if necessary; army sources report Army Chief of Staff General Nasution has nationwide officer support for such move.**

**CONFIDENTIAL**

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- C. Premier Djuanda warned Constituent Assembly 27 May that failure to accept constitution might precipitate "undesirable events" similar to those which "have taken place in neighboring countries"--thinly veiled warning of army coup.**
- D. Army chief Nasution banned all political activity throughout Indonesia as of 3 June.**

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- 1. This could be first step in army takeover.** [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] claims Nasution intends over next few weeks to assume nearly all power by issuing further decrees. There is to be no coup as such.

- 2. However, Nasution may have imposed ban to prevent political agitation during present period of critical decision.**

- E. Always possible further attempts at compromise will be attempted by Prime Minister Djuanda and Moslem party leaders.**